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31 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Arleigh Burke
Chief of Naval Operations

SUBJECT : Sanitization of TALENT Photography

REFERENCE : Ser NT-00187, 12 June 1958

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1. On 12 June 1958 you wrote to me asking that permission be granted for the use of TALENT photography by Navy strike pilots. This problem has been examined at length by the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee (ARC) and the Utilization Advisory Board (UAB).

2. Your request poses a very critical issue, namely, the release in some form of TALENT photography collected over the USSR Bloc to meet Navy needs arising from its responsibility to prepare pilots to deliver weapons against assigned targets in the event of war.

3. The sensitive character of the operations whereby TALENT photography has been collected is, as you are well aware, extraordinary. The need for the information thus collected, in order for intelligence to properly support national security, is also extraordinary. Over the last two and a half years as these materials have become available the agencies in the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) having a principal interest

NAVY review(s) completed.

have collaborated closely in order to ensure maximum security and at the same time maximum exploitation and use of these materials. Considerable progress has been made in devising ways and means of utilizing the information safely outside of the security control system. I am sure that you join me in applauding these efforts and would urge continued imaginative efforts to find new ways to obtain the greatest possible use. Whereas ways have been found to so sanitize photography to prevent exposure to non-TALENT-cleared officials of data bearing upon altitude, scale, camera configuration characteristics, and track, we thus far have been able to find no effective means of sanitizing photographs to prevent non-TALENT-cleared personnel from deducing that the picture must have been taken as a result of penetration of the Soviet air space by some means.

4. A plausible attribution of sanitized TALENT photography might be from generally known previous photographic collections, such as GENETRIX photography. However, there are technical reasons why conformance of TALENT to GENETRIX is infeasible. The most effective use of TALENT photography in the preparation of target materials for pilot briefing so far is the target folder preparations undertaken jointly by the Air Force and the Navy. In essence, this is a reissuance of

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5. Accordingly, I recommend that your need be met by the last method mentioned.

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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